



ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Christal M. Albrecht
President

Your College  **Right Now**

March 30, 2020

ACC Students and Employees,

Good afternoon, everyone. Christal Albrecht, here. As president of Alvin Community College, I want to take a few minutes to speak with you today. It's been just a week since we last talked and much has happened during that time.

The number of COVID-19 cases has increased in Brazoria and the surrounding counties. Brazoria county Judge Matt Sebesta issued a Stay at home/work safe order last week that will last through April 3. Many other Texas counties have done the same. And now president Trump has extended the social distancing protocol until April 30. Alvin Community College is considered an Essential Business so we are open today, with courses resuming and many services offered in a remote format.

As of today, March 30, the majority of our courses have moved online. I want to thank our faculty for their hard work in rising to the challenge of creating their courses in BlackBoard so that they can continue to serve our students though the end of the semester. Our IT staff, our Distance Education staff and our Instructional Leadership have been right beside the faculty, assisting them through this transition.

While this has been challenging for all of us, I see some silver linings in this COVID-19 cloud. Outside on the jogging trails by my house, I see families and people who I never see on the trails. Perhaps these folks who are now out and about, being active and engaged with the environment, will make exercise a new part of their everyday lives. I've seen people riding bikes, doing sidewalk chalk art with their kids, and playing street volleyball. All of this is good!

And for our college, some of the things that we have been pushed to do on a short timeline are ultimately good things! Going forward, we need to ask all of our faculty to be ready to teach online and augment their courses with additional web-based materials. This gives us more options and more flexibility to be able to serve our students.

Regarding services to students, for some time, we have wanted to put online advising and counseling in place and this crisis put us on the fast track to do so. Will it be perfect? Maybe not. It might be a little messy at first but we will work hard to get it right so that we can help our students succeed.

We already had online tutoring, online library data bases, and online library assistance but have scaled these services up to meet our new needs. We look forward to more advancements we can make to provide remote services to our students

During the rest of the semester, we will continue to deliver course work online wherever possible, continue to search for solutions to meet the needs of our students with hands-on training, and provide remote student service support. We will continue to explore opportunities for technology for our students. We will have a skeleton crew of employees and administrators on campus and encourage employees to work remotely.

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I want to take this time to thank all of our custodial staff, physical plant, and police who have been on campus supporting us since the beginning of this public health crisis. They are truly amazing.

I'd like to encourage all of us to do whatever we can to show appreciation to our healthcare workers who are on the frontline of this crisis, as well as all other Essential Employees who continue to provide us with goods and services. They are real heroes.

Dolphin Nation, we are all in this together and I look forward to getting to the other side of this where life is more normal. In the meantime, please stay safe at home and follow all the recommended precautions to keep you safe from the spread of the corona virus.

Fins up!

Christal M. Albrecht

Dr. Christal M. Albrecht
President, Alvin Community College

P. S. We're less than two weeks away from our Spring holidays on April 10th and 13th!

